



**Elmridge
Primary School**

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

ASTHMA POLICY

| Policy Version | | | |
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| Date | Document Version | Document Revision History | Document Author/Reviser |
| 10.7.15 | 1.2 | Updated by SLT after guidance has changed from LA and training completed | M. Edmundson |
| 1.10.15 | 1.3 | put forward to LGB for approval | M. Edmundson |
| 1.9.17 | 1.4 | Updated after advice from safeguarding consultant | M. Edmundson |
| 1.9.19 | 1.5 | Updated due to advice from Safeguarding consultant | M Edmundson |
| 26.1.22 | 1.6 | Removal of references to the Dunham Trust | M Edmundson |

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Training is updated once every two years.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. The school will hold this separately in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however staff with paediatric first aid training school are happy to do this. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to as long as the frequency of dosage reflects the information provided on the pupil's asthma information form provided by parents.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.

All parents/carers who indicate that their child suffers from asthma are consequently sent a letter briefly outlining the school's approach to asthma and an "Asthma Information Form" which the parents are asked to complete and return to school as soon as possible. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff.

Parents/carers are also asked to update the information form as soon as possible if their child's condition or dosage requirements change.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with PE staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so. Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Out-of-hours sport

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of

exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.

PE teachers, classroom teachers and out-of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All staff and sports coaches are provided with training from the school nurse, who has had asthma training.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.

The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. • In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. Staff will receive an annual training session on managing asthma and dealing with asthma attacks.

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Heads of School, who will make a regular report to the Local Governing Body of that school.

End of policy statement